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P.L.A.F. Simultaneous Attacks on 100 Enemy Bases, Airfields, Depots in 24 Cities and Towns

- ★ **Many Commanding Organs, Airfields, Gun Emplacements Paralysed.**
- ★ **U.S. and Puppet Regular Units Badly Mauled, Great Quantities of War Materials Destroyed.**
- ★ **Enemy Driven Deeper onto Strategic Defensive.**

(See page 8)

TOTAL COLLAPSE OF "RURAL PACIFICATION" PROGRAM

THE fine initial stage of the general offensive and simultaneous uprisings has been marked by the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam's unprecedented victories. An outstanding one has been the liberation of rural areas bordering on the cities, enemy bases and strategic communication lines, which has resulted in the total collapse of the "rural pacification" program, the focus of American efforts over a long period of time.

THE AVATARS OF A PROGRAM OF "VITAL IMPORTANCE"

AS everyone remembers, the "rural pacification" program was the object of noisy American propaganda as early as February 1966 at the Honolulu conference, and was later presented at the Manila conference in October of the same year, where it was approved and praised by all American satellites having sent mercenaries to South Viet Nam.

This drum-beating is in accordance with the "vital importance" attached by Washington to the "other war," one aimed at "winning the hearts and minds of the peasants of South Viet Nam" and one to be waged parallel to the "search-and-destroy" operations conducted against the Liberation armed forces, thus forming the two prongs of Westmoreland's strategy.

In fact, "rural pacification" was but a new label stuck on an old plan serving U.S. neo-colonialism. Starting with the "strategic hamlet"

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P.L.A.F. fighters

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★ True Nature of Johnsonism
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★ SNIPERS, TERROR OF U.S. TROOPS

CHINESE AND KOREAN GOVERNMENTS CONDEMN U.S. CRIMES AGAINST SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE

THE Government of the People's Republic of China issued on March 1 a statement strongly condemning the monstrous crimes recently committed by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys in South Viet Nam against the urban and rural people there.

The statement said: "Badly battered by the powerful new spring offensives of the heroic South Vietnamese people, U.S. imperialism and its lackeys recently resorted to cold-blooded massacres of the people, and especially the young people of South Viet Nam. Their wanton air bombing and artillery shellings in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang and other cities and use of even poison gas, hapalm, bombs and phosphorous shells, have taken a heavy toll of town and country people.

"On February 15 and 25, the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam issued statements strongly condemning the fascist atrocities of the U.S.-puppet clique and reiterating the firm resolve of the 31 million heroic Vietnamese people to fight U.S. imperialism and its lackeys to the end no matter the sacrifices. The Chinese government and the 700 million Chinese people firmly support this just position of the fraternal Vietnamese people and indignantly denounce U.S. imperialism and its South Vietnamese lackeys' monstrous crimes.

"President Ho Chi Minh, the great leader of the Vietnamese people is right when he says, 'The nearer victory, the more difficulties and hardships we shall have to cope with. The enemy like a cornered wild beast, will squirm frantically: our armed forces and people must further close their ranks, fight perseveringly, strike hard and repeated blows, record still bigger successes!' In response to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal, the 31 million Vietnamese, confident in their unquestionable victory, fearing no sacrifice and overcoming all difficulties, will now fight with increased courage to win final victory in their struggle against U.S. imperialism, for national salvation." Feeling a boundless admiration for the brother Vietnamese people, the Chinese people offer fierce total support and unlimited assistance. All revolutionary peoples in the world are on the Vietnamese people's side. We are firmly convinced that, however violent their desperate convulsions may be, the U.S. imperialists will never be able to check the Vietnamese people's advance toward their inevitable final victory."

ON February 28, 1968, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea also made public an indicting statement which read: "Such homicidal barbarities of the U.S. imperialists are unpardonable, heinous crimes against the Vietnamese people, an open challenge to all the peace-loving people of the world who resolutely oppose the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression in Viet Nam, and a most shameless violation of international law and the norms of human ethics.

"The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the entire Korean people sternly denounce and indignantly condemn the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys' savage crimes against the Vietnamese people.

"The Government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea convey their warm greetings to, and express their militant solidarity with, the South Vietnamese people who recorded resounding victories in the course of their offensive and mass simultaneous uprisings.

"The dastardly deeds of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys only precipitate their doom and embitter the hatred of the Vietnamese people for the enemy.

"The U.S. imperialists must put an unconditionaland permanent end to their odious crimes and all other war acts against the Vietnamese people, and withdraw from South Viet Nam their aggressive troops and those of satellite countries."

Total Collapse...

(*Continued from page 1*)

program worked out more than ten years ago and closely associated with Ngo Dinh Nhu, Diem's brother, a half-dozen similar schemes had been successively hatched by the Americans, only to meet with dismal failure.

Whatever the label used, the content was the same: to conquer land and win the people away from the revolution, and set up a puppet administrative machinery. The method hadn't changed either: "to scoop out the water and catch the fish" — "fish" being the patriots, the combatants of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and the "water" the people of South Viet Nam. The measures taken were also the same: to use military forces (American and puppet) to drive away the main-force units of the Liberation army, then, behind the shield proffered by those forces, to round up the people, herd them into hamlets specially set up, divide them into categories and put them under tight control, destroy revolutionary organizations, build a repressive apparatus under the puppet administration; parallel to terror, to carry out a number of demagogic measures on the political, economic and social planes.

But the rural population of South Viet Nam, who have a long, indomitable tradition of patriotism, refused to bow to force and did not let themselves be taken in or bought over. All "pacification" programs worked out by the American aggressors, like all other enslaving schemes of theirs, had been successively thwarted by the people.

With the downfall of Ngo Dinh Diem in late 1963 and the bankruptcy of "special warfare" in 1965, the puppet administration and army underwent a process of disintegration and none other than General Wheeler, the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, admitted that the National Front for Liberation was then controlling as much as three-fourths of the territory of South Viet Nam and was exerting heavy pressure on the remaining one-fourth. An American expeditionary corps was rushed to South Viet Nam in the hope of saving the situation. Nhu's "strategic hamlets" were given a new name, "New Life hamlets" — old wine in a new flask! — while the ambitious Staley-Taylor plan, aimed at "pacifying" South Viet Nam within 18 months, had to give way to a program for the pacification of "key points."

Having realized that the puppet troops were no longer able to face main-force units of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, the Americans gave them new assignments as "house mother," which means that they would serve as a shield and a prop for "rural pacification" Vetnam, now bearing the high-sounding name of "Revolutionary Development teams," the rationale being that "rural pacification" was a political job aimed at "winning the hearts and minds" of the Vietnamese people and so could only be carried out by Vietnamese. But the Americans were not long to find themselves facing a bitter truth: they had sent puppet troops—who were thoroughly demoralized—into a field of activity in which the revolutionary forces had every facility to bring their strength into full play: guerilla warfare and political agitation among the masses. And so the Americans soon had to send their own troops as well as satellite ones—both already stretched thin on all battlefields—to the rescue of puppet troops engaged in "rural pacification."

Even then, the aggressors' situation was not improved in the least. In their second strategic "dry-season counter-offensive" (1966—1967), the Americans once again had to tone down their "rural pacification" program, now to be confined to four "key areas" around the cities and strategic communication lines. But following the pitiful failure of Operations *Attleboro*, *Junction City* and others, American officials, Cabot Lodge in the first place, could not but recognize that of the four aspects of the American war of aggression in Viet Nam — military operations; building a puppet administration; economic improvement and fight against inflation; rural pacification — the last named was the darkest spot in a somber picture. After the 1967 summer offensive of the Liberation forces, Komer, who was in charge of the "pacification" program, had to report to Washington that of the 13,000 hamlets in South Viet Nam, only 2,300 (a much inflated figure!) could be considered "pacified."

And when the third dry season of their war of aggression started, the Americans' "rural pacification" program again shrank. The target this time was reduced mainly to the neighborhood of Saigon and the Mekong Delta.

A STRATEGIC STUMBLING-BLOCK

THE stormy uprisings in the rural areas of South Viet Nam swept away the last shreds of whatever the Americans and their puppets had achieved during the last 10 years and more. Those last shreds weren't much, but they meant a lot to the aggressors, for "pacified hamlets" made up a *cordon sanitaire* affording a certain protection to enemy-held cities and bases. In those areas still under their temporary control, they could scrape up manpower and material resources for their war of aggression, set up a puppet administrative machinery serving as a prop to the Saigon "government," and they could also use them as a springboard for raids on the liberated rural and mountain regions.

Following the events of late January - early February 1968, the *cordon sanitaire* around American-held cities and bases has been smashed, and so have their political bases and military springboards. Now linked to the vast rural areas already liberated for a long time, the newly liberated regions, which border on enemy-held cities, military bases and strategic communication lines, have strengthened the revolutionary forces and consolidated their positions. The immense majority of Vietnamese countryside is now an inexhaustible reservoir of manpower and material resources for the revolution, it surrounds the enemy lairs on all sides, isolates them from each other, and turns the enemy's springboard areas into those of the Liberation forces. This explains why five weeks after the start of the general offensive and simultaneous uprisings, the Liberation armed forces are still launching repeated assaults on the enemy deep inside the cities and are lobbing artillery shells every day on airfields and storage depots located deep inside well-protected areas.

The fact that the Liberation forces have freed the countryside from the aggressors' grip and are winning control of the cities has put the Americans before insoluble problems. Here are some of the facts reported in Western agencies' despatches:

— the 54 puppet battalions, which had been detailed for the protection of "pacification" teams, have had to be withdrawn to the cities in anticipation of more attacks by the Liberation forces;

— the puppet village militia units (*dan ve*) are all demoralized and disintegrated;

— the "pacification teams" (formerly numbering 50,000 according to American figures) have either been withdrawn to the cities or have vanished into thin air;

— the major part of the American troops are now concentrated around Saigon and in the demilitarized zone;

— the overall result of the above (according to *AFP*, *Reuter* and *USIS*) is that the Americans have let the countryside "fall into the hands of the Viet Cong" and that the vitally important "rural pacification" program has come to grief.

An *AP* despatch of Feb. 29 remarked that Wesmoreland had put Johnson before a difficult choice: either the American troops should "protect" the countryside, or they should "defend" the towns and cities, but they can't do both, for they are already spread thin!

While the storm is raging, the enemy's internal dissensions have grown ever more acute. The Americans try to lay the blame for the collapse of the "rural pacification" program and their puppets, saying that Saigon has remained totally "inactive." As to the Saigon puppets, they complain that the Americans have not given adequate protection. Among the American top officials themselves, a brawl has broken out: Komer has been saying that he couldn't "pacify" for lack of "security," for which the military of Westmoreland should bear full responsibility, while Westmoreland has been arguing that none other than Komer should be held responsible for "pacification," this very Komer who a few weeks ago had claimed control over 67 per cent of South Viet Nam!

A HOPELESS SITUATION

ONE thing is clear: in spite of all the heated argument and even if Johnson were to supply Westmoreland with hundreds of thousands of reinforcements (let alone a paltry 30,000 — 100,000 men) the American aggressors won't be able to end that strategic headache they are having now in South Viet Nam.

It is the Americans who have started the war of aggression in South Viet Nam. In return, the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam have waged war on the Americans right in side their lairs—the cities they claim to control. The "pacification" prong has been broken, and this is causing the breaking up of that other prong: "the search-and-destroy" operations. Not only will the Americans no longer be able to "search for and destroy" Liberation troops, but the latter have been searching for and destroying American aggressors right inside the Tan Son Nhat airfield and even the American Embassy in Saigon.

On March 2, 1968, Dean Rusk, while recognizing that the pacification program, "a vital key to final victory," was "nearly destroyed in rural South Viet Nam," declared that it "will be repaired and started again." Everyone knows that this was but hot air. The collapse of "pacification" and that of the whole neo-colonialist structure set up by the Americans in South Viet Nam is beyond retrieve.

TRUE NATURE OF JOHNSONISM

MR. JOHNSON has declared that he has gone as far as any decent and honourable person could go in order to try and settle the Viet Nam problem. Meanwhile the American press has carried rumours of "the visit paid to Hanoi by a special emissary of Johnson" at the time of the massive onslaughts of the N.F.L.

In that style, which is so peculiar to him, Dean Rusk, pointing his finger at students demonstrating against the war in Viet Nam, shouted that the placards should be passed on to him, who has carried all over the world one that called for peace in Viet Nam.

And yet, in the United States as well as in other countries, the White House's sincerity concerning the problem of "negotiations" is seriously questioned.

THE DATA ARE QUITE CLEAR

NO Vietnamese has ever infringed U.S. territory. On the other hand, a 500,000 strong American expeditionary corps is trampling on South Viet Nam while U.S. planes and ships attack the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam night and day.

Whether prompted by international law, the 1954 Geneva Agreements or human ethics, the same conclusion is inescapable: the U.S. is the aggressor, the Vietnamese people are the victim of aggression. Logic points to only one thing: the U.S. must put an end to its aggression in the South and its bombing of the North, withdraw its troops and those of its satellites, and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs. The Washington ruling circles have rejected that logic and tried to impose their own: their aggression would be ended only on certain conditions. For instance, the bombing would stop once Hanoi would send out some "sign" or undertake to stop or limit "infiltrations into South Viet Nam." Whatever the price asked for, the American stance rests on two constants: a conditional end to the bombing of the North and the principle of reciprocity. More exactly it hinged on one single constant: the principle of reciprocity.

Naturally, this kind of logic sets the White House's position in direct contrast with that of the Vietnamese people. In its four points, entirely consistent with those of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has defined the basis for a settlement of the Viet Nam problem. In his January 28, 1967 statement Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh, Foreign Minister, stated what would allow talks to be started between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United States, if the latter really wanted those talks.

Even a quick glance at the positions taken by the two parties is enough to explain why world and American public opinion has given its constant support to the Vietnamese people's just cause and demanded with growing insistence that the bombing and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam should be stopped unconditionally.

A NEW TURN

FOLLOWING the January 28, 1967 statement by Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh, and under pressure from world and U.S. public opinion, the American ruling circles have found themselves in a growing predicament and isolation. From their declarations and from leaks in the press, one may draw some conclusions as to what seemed to be Washington's preoccupations:

— Supposing the United States eventually agreed to end the bombing of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, how would Hanoi be informed of that decision?

— Would an end to the bombing get the talks going?

— What should be the subjects of eventual talks?

— Would talks be productive?

At first, one might thinks that these are so many signs of Washington's willingness to enter into talks with the other party. Nothing of the sort! On the contrary, the Johnson administration continues to send more troops, American and other, to South Viet Nam and climb higher in its escalation against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The sword in one hand and an olive branch in the other!

On September 29, 1967, the American president set up a new milestone—the San Antonio declaration—on the road of the "search for peace" in Viet Nam. After a ritual reassertion of his "desire" for a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem, he set forth preliminary conditions to an end to the bombing of North Viet Nam. The bombing would be ended when this would quickly lead to discussions—productive ones—and on condition that the D.R.V.N. would not take military advantage of this cessation.

And ever since, at every turn, and whatever audience they were facing, the American president and his closest collaborators have not ceased referring to the "San Antonio formula" and trying to impose it as the sole remedy to the Viet Nam problem. We really want peace: just look at the San Antonio formula! We have an excellent way of getting peace: the San Antonio formula!

Unfortunately this famous San Antonio formula is fatally marred with that condition so vigorously condemned by world opinion: the principle of reciprocity.

The San Antonio declaration is not a new turn in Johnson's Viet Nam policy: it is rather a turn, if any, in the diplomatic jargon of the White House — in order to ward off criticisms and cover up fresh "escalations?"

NEW TRIALS FOR WASHINGTON

ON December 29, 1967, Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh explicitly declared:

"After the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam will hold talks with the United States on relevant problems."

To questions asked by an *AFP* correspondent, on January 16, 1968 Mr. Mai Van Bo, Delegate General of the Government of the D.R.V.N. to France, elaborated on the conditions in which talks could take place between the D.R.V.N. and the United States.

"This unconditional cessation of the bombing and all other acts of war could be announced by the U.S. government through a declaration or through the use of any other method likely to prove its reality."

"The talks will begin after an appropriate time following the unconditional cessation of the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N."

About the level of eventual talks, Mr. Mai Van Bo stressed that following that unconditional cessation the two parties would meet to reach an agreement on such questions.

In an interview granted to Mr. B.J. Cabanes, special correspondent of *AFP* in Hanoi, Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh gave more details about "relevant problems" and "appropriate time":

"Relevant problems are problems related to a settlement of the Viet Nam problem on the basis of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam; they are also other questions which could be raised by either side."

"Appropriate time: the talks will begin as soon as the United States has proved it has really stopped unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam."

AP was of the opinion that "Mr. Trinh went a step further than he had in his previous two declarations." (Feb. 9)

The *New York Times*, after deploring the fact that "a military victory is not possible and probably never has been possible," affirms that "the Trinh interview clearly indicates the desirability of another attempt to reopen negotiations, especially in the light of the fast-expanding fiercity of the fighting." (Feb. 11)

The new statements of the D.R.V.N. have been hailed by public opinion, which considers her position as quite clear: the United States can no longer argue that this position is vague and needs further probing.

Now, it's Washington's turn to call.

WASHINGTON'S OBSTINACY

ON February 14, a State Department spokesman read a declaration by Dean Rusk in which the latter began by trying to demonstrate that Hanoi "doesn't want peace." To that end all is grist that comes to his mill, beginning with such vague concepts as "its repeated refusal to take step to reduce the scale of violence in South-East Asia" or such utter nonsense as "its refusal to respect the territorial integrity and neutrality of Cambodia*" etc...

Dean Rusk alluded to Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh's statements in these terms: "We are not interested in propaganda gestures whose purpose is to mislead and confuse." Poor Mr. Rusk! Instead of supplying direct answers to unequivocal questions, he prefers calumnious allegations and unintelligent sophistries. To explain away his government's obstinate attitude, he keeps harping on the "San Antonio formula." To justify his deliberate disregard for the detailed information contained in Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh's statement of January 28, 1968, he merely calls them "propaganda gestures" — in fact the White House has proved quite incapable of making even such "propaganda gestures." And he concludes his declaration with a trickery: "Hanoi knows how to get in touch with us." He gives one to understand that Washington is always ready to discuss the Viet Nam problem while Hanoi has so far refused to do so.

It is not without reason that the press, in the United States as well as in the world, has unanimously considered Dean Rusk's Feb. 14 declaration as America's refusal to enter into talks with the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. On the other hand, voices have been raised ever more vigorously to demand an immediate and unconditional cessation of the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N; not only those of the millions of peace- and justice-loving people but also of politicians of various convictions. Thus, U Thant, the French government, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian and other officials have stressed the necessity of putting an unconditional end to the American bombing as a preliminary measure without which nothing could be started. Many American politicians share the same views.

The President of the United States, L.B. Johnson, sticks to his policy of aggression in Viet Nam, refusing to draw any lesson from the smashing attacks of the Liberation forces and the general uprisings of the South Vietnamese people since the beginning of this year. He tries to work the American people up by calling the Vietnamese people's resistance to American aggression a "mortal challenge" to the United States. General Westmoreland,

(*Continued page 7*)

* *In the joint Viet Nam — Khmer communiqué signed on January 8, 1968 on the occasion of the visit to Hanoi of H.H. Norodom Phurissara, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, it is said: "In the name of the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Khmer people, the Foreign Minister, H.H. Norodom Phurissara, sincerely thanks the Government of the D.R.V.N. and the brother Vietnamese people for having always scrupulously respected the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia and firmly supported the Khmer people's just struggle, and considers this precious support an encouragement for their just struggle."*

VIETNAMESE WOMEN IN FACE OF U.S. AGGRESSION

Tran Thi Doan

PRESIDENT OF NAM DINH CITY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

NAM DINH is the third largest city in North Viet Nam. It boasts numerous industrial undertakings, among them a textile complex and hundreds of handicraft co-operatives. Because of its economic importance, it has become a selected target of U.S. aircraft, which have attacked it nearly 200 times.

At the head of its administration, the people have placed a woman, Mrs. Tran Thi Doan. It had been necessary for me to watch this frail woman — a mother of six — at work for over a week and interview numerous people to realize how greatly she has succeeded in fulfilling the difficult task of leading production and combat and at the same time organizing the life of this important city. I've come to realize what a truly big-hearted woman she is.

When American aggression began, it was naturally the city administrative committee which worked out a plan for the evacuation of the non-combatant population and of economic and cultural installations. Tran Thi Doan's courage and patience greatly contributed to the successful completion of this task. She was seen in one city ward after another, giving advice and help to local administrative committees which were coping with the thousand problems posed by the removal to the countryside of thousands of children and old folks, and that of scores of industrial enterprises and hundreds of handicraft co-operatives. To the building of air raid shelters and trenches she gave a great fillip.

Her courage is recognized by all. Whenever the alert sounds, she is seen riding her bike towards the command post. After the planes have been driven away, she would rush to the bombed areas to direct rescue work and the reorganization of life in the stricken quarters.

In providing leadership for production work and the the organization of life in the city, Tran Thi Doan evinces great industriousness. She is well acquainted with every production unit, which she regularly visits. She gives helpful advice to the cadres and, whenever she can find the time, goes to work with the workers in order to know their needs and aspirations better. It was on her proposition that the city administrative committee has built underground canteens, stores, and cinemas for the workers; underground bathrooms reserved for women workers are also under construction. On her orders and with her help, the city trade service has improved its network of goods distribution so that the people won't have to go very far for their shopping and won't collect in vulnerable crowds. It was on her suggestion that Catholic city dwellers have been evacuated to hamlets with a church, so that they could carry on their religious practice.

Tran Thi Doan is a fond sister for the younger. When Tran Thi Thom, a young woman of 22, was elected president of the administrative committee of My Phu village, Tran Thi Doan did not stint time and effort to help her get acquainted with her new duties.

Another of her outstanding features is her modesty and love of study. She learns from her work and from the masses, listens to views voiced by cadres and workers. Recently, 15 agricultural communities have been incorporated with the city administration, so that as president of the city administrative committee she has had to familiarize herself with agricultural production. And so she is often seen visiting the countryside and attending meetings in agricultural co-operatives in order to acquire the necessary knowledge. She also attends regularly complementary education classes.

Her heavy social duties have not prevented her from being a good mother and wife. Of course, her children have been evacuated to the countryside and she can only visit them from time to time. But the older ones — her eldest daughter is 14 — have been taught to look after their younger brothers and sisters. And so all are in good health and earn good marks in school. For Tran Thi Doan's husband, an officer now at the front, this and the good work accomplished by her are a source of joy and pride, and also a great encouragement.

Ever since 1965, Nam Dinh, Tran Thi Doan's native city, has been victoriously facing American aggression. Together with the people and armed forces of the whole province of Nam Ha (of which it is the capital) it has to date brought down 82 U.S. aircraft. It has also recorded brilliant results in production and the organization of daily life. In 1967, production increased by 25 per cent in industry and 16.2 per cent in agriculture, compared with the previous year. One out of every four inhabitants goes to general education, complementary education or vocational schools. Libraries, culture houses, cinemas remain open and serve tens of thousands of people. For tens of thousands of workers, co-operative farmers and State employees, this slogan is a reality: "Let our songs drown the explosions of bombs!"

Comrade Tran Van Soan, the Party secretary for the city, told me, "To those achievements Tran Thi Doan has brought no small contribution."

February 1968
H.H.

NEW U.S. CRIMES AGAINST HANOI

AT a time when the people of Hanoi were engaged in a stirring emulation movement to acclaim the great victories of their brothers and sisters in Saigon and Hue, the U.S. aggressors, infuriated by their disastrous defeats in South Viet Nam, committed new crimes against the D.R.V.N. capital.

On Feb. 29, U.S. planes dropped 43 big bombs on Co Nhue, a heavily populated village in the northwestern suburb of the capital, killing 29 civilians including 17 children, 3 old persons and 6 women, and wounding 12 others among them 4 women, 3 old persons and 2 children. Class 3D of the local first-grade school was hit by a bomb which killed 6 pupils in a shelter, one of them still holding a copy-book in his hand.

A *Shrike* missile was also fired on Nguyen Sieu Street in Hoan Kiem District, one of the most populous of the city, killing a three-year-old baby and wounding 5 other people. At 11 p.m. on March 2, and early next morning U.S. planes raided many other populous areas inside Hanoi and in its outlying districts.

However, having foreseen the dark scheme of the enemy to retaliate on the North for their defeats in the South, the Hanoi people had stood ready to hit back at the air marauders. Two U.S. planes were shot down on Feb. 29, another was shot down on March 3, and still another on March 4. The Hanoi people had also made preparations to eliminate the aftermaths of the enemy's war of destruction and to continue to discharge at a still greater tempo and to a higher degree their as great rear towards the great Southern front. From public offices to schools, from factories to construction sites and agricultural co-operatives, everywhere the Hanoi people has put up the slogans "All for the kindred South, Saigon and Hue!" and "Let's avenge Co Nhue!"

At the construction site named "Saigon—Hue" group leader Tran Cong Tot and his mates, defying the cold weather and the drizzle, brought dozens of concrete electric poles and tons of equipment to the building site set up in a muddy tract. They dug holes to erect the poles, laid the foundation and hung the cables... with a grim determination to complete the work two days ahead of schedule. They were only a small group but worked with great tenacity. They named by common consent the day when their job was completed the "day of general offensive." In fact, they mounted a relentless offensive, working through many nights. The U.S. air raids on their beloved capital city only stirred them to work with yet greater skill and efficiency. Finally, they completed the works not two but three days ahead of schedule.

Hoang Thi Dung, a saleswoman at a State rice shop, went to her store in the depth of night in freezing weather, long before opening time to make some more preparations so that the next day she could attend to her customers more efficiently and spare them the risk of standing too long in a queue now that U.S. planes could attack civilian quarters in Hanoi at any moment.

Nguyen Thi Nhung at the Pharmaceutical Factory No 1 raised her quota of 1,640 200 phials to 2,000. Miss Loan, a newspaper saleswoman, broke her own record by selling 2,000 copies a day.

Meanwhile, workers at the spinning section of the Textile Mill completed their February plan with outstanding results. Per capita output in a shift rose from 72kg to 75kg of yarn. The thread-making handicraft co-operative *Co Do* (Red Flag) was no less zealous. It had launched an emulation drive from February 22 to March 2, 1968. When the movement was in full swing, news of the U.S. bombing of Co Nhue filled the workers with a burning hatred. The last three days of the drive saw the highest productivity of the co-op. So in the ten-day emulation drive they turned out as much thread as in a month previously.

New U.S. crimes have only spurred the Hanoi people to live up to their pledge to their kith-and-kin in the South.

DEESCALATION IN L.B.J.'s ORATORY

1965:
"The U.S. will win!"

1967:
(After the abysmal failure of Operation Junction City*)*
"The U.S. will not be the victor, but will not be defeated either!"

Early 1968:
"The U.S. will not surrender."

Cartoon by **N.D. Chuong**
from Hanoi Nhan Dan *Daily*

Up to March 6

2,781

U.S. planes were downed IN NORTH VIET NAM

67 COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES' CONFERENCE WARMLY SUPPORTS VIET NAM

THE Consultative Conference of 67 Communist and Workers' parties, convened in Budapest, sent a message on Feb. 28 to the Vietnamese people, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

After warmly acclaiming the spectacular victories won by our compatriots in the South, expressing the total support of the member parties to the struggle put up by the entire Vietnamese people against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, and strongly condemning the crimes perpetrated by the U.S. imperialists in both parts of Viet Nam, the message went on to say:

"In defending their country, the Vietnamese people are also discharging their internationalist duty to mankind. They are serving the sacred cause of peace.

"We, communists, hold that it is our own internationalist duty to show our solidarity with fighting Viet Nam. On behalf of our parties and millions of their members, we again express our unshakable determination to give all necessary support to the Vietnamese people now at the spearhead of the anti-imperialist armed struggle.

"Standing at your side are the countries in the socialist community, all the communists, all the workers and all the labouring people of the world, the national-liberation fighters, and all those men in the world who cherish freedom and peace, including those in the United States itself. You can be sure, dear comrades, that the assistance extended to you by the socialist countries and all the workers in the world will increase day after day.

"The constant strengthening and expansion of the international front of support to the Vietnamese people now struggling for their victory is consistent with the interests of each country, of each people, and of the cause of world peace. United action in the struggle against imperialism, first of all U.S. imperialism, is an imperative of our times.

"Dear friends, we fully agree with you that there is only one way to settle the Viet Nam issue — the one which is based on the sensible proposals of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and on the program of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. We demand that an immediate and unconditional end be put to the savage bombings of Viet Nam and to all other military operations against the latter.

"The land of Viet Nam is the cradle of a proud and brave nation. The time will come when finally the interventionists will be driven from this sacred land. There are no, and there will never be, other masters on this land of Viet Nam than the Vietnamese people themselves."

(Retranslated from the French)

THE WHOLE WORLD SUPPORTS US

FRANCE

ON Feb. 18, in Le Havre, ten thousand delegates from French Viet Nam-supporting organizations and Le Havre, Dieppe, Orb, Calvados, Paris people, attended a send-off for the Viet Nam-bound ship transporting goods collected by the French people in the "a shipload for Viet Nam" campaign.

The demonstrators began their parade from Avenue Leningrad to George V wharf passing through the main thoroughfares of the city. At the head of the march were Waldeck Rochet, Secretary General of the French Communist Party, Andre Vieuguet, member of the C.C. Politburo of the French Communist Party, Rene Cance, mayor of Le Havre, and representatives of the French Peace Movement, the French People's Mutual Aid Association, the France-Viet Nam Friendship Medical Association, the French Communist Youth Movement, the French Women's Union...

The demonstration ended with a meeting held at the port. In his speech Waldeck Rochet said, "The end of the 'a shipload for Viet Nam' campaign does not mean the end of efforts to show solidarity with the Vietnamese people. On the contrary, we shall step up our support for the struggle of the Vietnamese people. For this reason the Communist Party has set up the National Committee of Action for Support and Victory of the Vietnamese People."

On Feb. 14, a delegation of Parisians led by Louis Baillot, Secretary of the National Committee of Action for Support and Victory of the Vietnamese People, Corentin Bourneau, member of the National Committee of the French Peace Movement, Germaine Guille, Secretary of the French General Confederation of Labour, Charles Fourniau, representative of the France-Viet Nam Friendship Association, called at the U.S. Embassy and handed in, on behalf of 80,000 demonstrators, a petition demanding that the U.S. put an end to its aggression in Viet Nam.

GREAT BRITAIN

ON March 3, 1968, 3,000 Londoners demonstrated against the U.S. criminal war in Viet Nam. They sent to the U.S. Embassy in London a petition demanding an end to the bombing of the D.R.V.N. and withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam.

The participants in the demonstration — organized by the paper *Morning Star*, central organ of the British Communist Party on the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the founding of the paper — marched through the downtown area of the city to the residence of the British Prime Minister where a delegation led by John Gollan, Secretary General of the British Communist Party and editor-in-chief of the *Morning Star*, handed to the spokesman of the British Government a petition protesting against British support of the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam.

The demonstrators also marched to the U.S. Embassy, chanting anti-U.S. Viet Nam war slogans.

80,000 Parisians demonstrated on Feb. 13, 1968 to hail South Viet Nam armed forces and people's victories

SCIENTISTS' INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CONDEMNS U.S. IMPERIALISM

AT the international conference on the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons held in London and attended by scientists from various countries, the main item of business was the use of chemical weapons by the U.S. expeditionary forces against the population and crops in Viet Nam. Many scientists sternly condemned the U.S. imperialists' use of mass extermination weapons in Viet Nam. The American biologist Victor Sidel gave concrete proofs of the U.S. aggressors' use of lethal chemicals against the South Vietnamese people. Dr. Rous, a British scientist, denounced the perfidy of the U.S. authorities who denied that lethal chemicals had been used in Viet Nam. He said he was aware of many cases of the Vietnamese people being killed by U.S. noxious chemicals.

U.A.R.

ON Feb. 20, 1968, the secretariat of the U.A.R. National Assembly sent to the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Permanent Mission in Cairo a letter announcing that at its Feb. 20 session, the U.A.R. National Assembly had passed a resolution "voicing its sincere and complete support to the revolutionary and vanguard struggle waged by the heroic South Vietnamese people under the leadership of the South Viet Nam N.F.L." The U.A.R. National Assembly reiterated its sympathy with, and support for, the Vietnamese people whose unshakable determination were vividly illustrated by the recent victories.

PUERTO RICO

GIAI PHONG *Press Agency* correspondent in Havana reported that the 5th National Congress of Youth of the Puerto Rico Independence Movement had issued a declaration on Viet Nam saying, "The Puerto Rican people are particularly concerned with the Vietnamese people's struggle, not only because they are victims of direct intervention of U.S. imperialism but also because Puerto Rican youths are impressed into the U.S. army to fight against Viet Nam."

HONG KONG

ON Feb. 25, 1968, the 19th Congress of the Hongkong seamen passed a resolution calling on all Chinese seamen in Hongkong to refuse to handle materials for the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam. The resolution wrote, "All the seamen in Hongkong regard with gratification the brilliant successes of the Vietnamese people as their own. In an attempt to ward off their inevitable defeat in Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists are stepping up war preparations and at the same time using Hongkong as their military and logistic base; they continue to use Hongkong sailors for loading war materials to Viet Nam, they bomb foreign merchant ships calling at North Viet Nam ports, thereby jeopardizing the lives of sailors hailing from various countries.

All the seamen in Hongkong strongly denounce these crimes of the U.S. imperialists and resolutely refuse to handle U.S. military goods. They will load goods for the D.R.V.N. in protest against the U.S. policy of aggression, and will give every help to the Vietnamese people in their war against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

Everything for Viet Nam's Anti-U.S. Aggression Struggle

NEW U.S. ADVENTURIST SCHEMES IN LAOS DOOMED TO FAILURE

PURSUSING their aggressive schemes in Laos, for over a year now, the U.S. imperialists have been doing their best to step up their "special war" there. Besides sending pirates, commandos and spies to sabotage the *Neo Lao Hahsat* rear, they egged on their reactionary "allies" in Laos to mount nibbling attacks against the liberated areas. In their intensified round-the-clock air raids, some by B. 52s bombers, they have committed bloody crimes in many regions especially in Central and Lower Laos.

Stirred by a deep hatred for the enemy and resolved to defend the liberated areas and preserve the fruits of the revolution, the Lao armed forces and people have fought heroically under the glorious banner of the *Neo Lao Hahsat*, and repeatedly foiled the enemy's encroachments. In 1967 nearly 16,000 enemy soldiers were put out of action, hundreds of thousands of people freed from the grip of the U.S. imperialists and the Lao reactionary clique. All this proves that the Lao patriotic forces have never ceased growing.

In February 1968, they won a resounding victory at Nam Bac, chopped up 4 crack mobile groups of the Lao reactionary army, wiping out nearly 3,000 enemy soldiers, seizing 1,000 firearms of various kinds and downing or destroying 14 aircraft. In the Muong Ngan battle (Feb. 3, 1968) 13 enemy battalions were routed in one night.

The setbacks suffered by the enemy in the first three months of the dry season (November 1967 – January 1968) and especially in the Nam Bac and Muong Ngan battles have landed him in a critical situation. The reactionary army's morale has sunk to a new low; desertions, uprisings and mutinies have taken place in which patriotic soldiers killed their recalcitrant commanders and crossed over to the people's side in full kit. Meanwhile the pro-U.S. Vientiane government is in a turmoil. Opposing factions wrangle about position and privileges and demand that Prince Phouma "resubtle his post." The Sananikon-Kouprasit clique constantly seek highest post.

Not owning themselves vanquished, the stubborn imperialists are hatching a new scheme to cope with the patriotic movement both in Laos and South Viet Nam, which is to invade Central and Lower Laos with U.S. ground forces. To prepare public opinion for this move, they have reiterated the shop-worn slander against the *Neo Lao Hahsat* and the D.R.V.N. Worth noticing is the fact that Prince Phouma has thought it necessary to play quite an insignificant role in all this. His February 23, 1968 statement that "North Viet Nam interferes in the affairs of Laos and has many times violated the Geneva Agreements" and that he "does not object to one or more sigpatories to the Geneva Agreements intervening militarily in Laos" was but sheer distortion of the truth and was only profitable to the U.S. *UPI* made no bones that the country referred to by Phouma was no other else than the U.S. The Canadian and Indian delegates to the I.C. in Laos chimed in with the U.S.: flouting deliberately the procedure prescribed by the 1962 Geneva Agreements, they signed illegally on February 22 "a visit to study the military situation in Lower Laos" despite the opposition of the Polish delegate. As made plain in the March 2, 1968 statement of the spokesman of the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry, "the Indian and Canadian delegates to the I.C. have grossly interfered in the internal affairs of Laos, violated the principle of unanimity between the three parties in Laos and acted diametrically counter to the interests of Laos' national concord. They acted upon the request of one party in opposition to another party, thus lending a hand to the U.S. aggressors in their war against the Lao patriotic forces."

In his February 23 interview with *Pathet Lao Radio*, Phoumi Vongvichit, Secretary-General of the *Neo Lao Hak-sat*, Minister of Information, Propaganda and Tourism in the National Coalition Government, voiced the iron determination of the 6 million Lao to oppose the bellicose scheme of the U.S. imperialists and their reactionary "allies."

Phoumi Vongvichit said: "If the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen throw themselves headlong into a new military adventure in Laos, the Lao people, closely united with other brother Indo-Chinese peoples, will mete out to them a punishment ten times harsher, until they are completely defeated."

The Vietnamese people have always respected and correctly implemented the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos. Having long-standing relations of fraternal neighbourhood with the Lao people, they wholeheartedly support the latter's patriotic struggle against U.S. imperialism and for a peaceful, neutral, unified, democratic and prosperous Laos.

In the United States

1,300 Girl Students on a Hunger Strike. Many Organizations Protest against U.S. War of Aggression in Viet Nam

ACCORDING to foreign reports, over 1,300 students of Smith and Wellesley colleges, Massachusetts, two of the better-known American colleges for women, started a fast on March 4 in protest against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam. Forty-five faculty members and 366 students at Smith have been wearing a white arm-band as a sign of solidarity with their comrades who are opposing the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam.

In a meeting held at Smith College on March 4, about 1,700 students signed a petition demanding that the Johnson administration should put an end to the bombing of North Viet Nam, and protesting against its escalation of the war.

Five faculty members and a large number of students at Amherst, a men's college, also fasted for three days in support for the protest movement at Smith and Wellesley.

THE National Mobilisation Committee for an End to the War in Viet Nam has issued an appeal to the American people to join in a ten-day protest drive against the American war of aggression in Viet Nam, to be staged from April 21 to 30, 1968. The appeal said that the Committee, in co-operation with the S.D.S. (Students for a Democratic Society), was launching a ten-day protest in various localities and would concentrate its efforts on building up a nation-wide drive. The appeal was supported by the Organization of American Negroes Against the War and Against the Draft and the Students' Mobilisation Committee, which was making preparations for a students' strike on April 26, 1968. The National Mobilisation Committee has proposed that April 27, 1968 be observed as a day of unified demonstrations to show the strength of the movement of protest against the war in Viet Nam. The Committee also called on all anti-U.S. aggression organizations in the world and all international organizations to support the ten-day protest drive of the American people, and particularly the unified demonstrations of April 27, 1968, by launching protest demonstrations of their own.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

D.R.V.N. REPRESENTATIVES VISIT SWEDEN AND ITALY

NGUYEN THO CHAN, D.R.V.N. ambassador to the Soviet Union, recently visited Sweden at the invitation of her government.

During his stay there, he had talks with Prime Minister Tage Erlander and Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson. He made clear the D.R.V.N. government's position on the settlement of the Viet Nam problem and expressed the gratitude of the Vietnamese people for the Swedish people's support to them in their struggle against U.S. aggression. The Swedish Prime Minister and Foreign Minister told the D.R.V.N. ambassador of the Swedish people's sympathy for the just struggle of the Vietnamese people and demanded the unconditional cessation of the bombing of the D.R.V.N.

At a meeting held by the Stockholm people attended by Nguyen Tho Chan, the Swedish Minister of General Education Olof Palm stressed that "the responsibility of all governments in Europe is to protest against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam and to help the Vietnamese people wrest back their right to self-determination."

PHAN VAN SU, D.R.V.N. ambassador to Czechoslovakia, recently paid a visit to Italy. He had talks with Foreign Minister A. Fanfani, on the struggle of the Vietnamese people against U.S. aggression and expounded the position of the D.R.V.N. Government on the settlement of the Viet Nam problem.

WORLD PRESS CONDEMNS U.S. AND SUPPORTS VIET NAM

"THE U.S. imperialists are committing more and more atrocious crimes in Viet Nam. Unable to break the iron will of the Vietnamese people who are heroically safeguarding their freedom and independence, the interventionists have performed cruel and bestial deeds which resemble those of the Hitler clique in Europe as two peas.

"... The world peoples never forget and tolerate the savage crimes of the U.S. imperialists in Viet Nam.

"... The U.S. militarists' scheme is to intimidate and bring the Vietnamese people to their knees but their terror only further exasperates the hatred of the Vietnamese people and stiffens their opposition to the aggressors. The word 'Viet Nam' has become the symbol of the unshakable conviction and undauntedness of a nation waging a just war..."

Izvestia — Feb. 8, 1968
(Soviet Union)

"THE vigorous Spring offensives of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces have brought about a new physionomy in the Viet Nam people's war against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. These great victories have strongly shaken the U.S. and puppet reactionary rule in the main cities and towns, completely shattered their 'pacification' plan in the rural areas, wiped out a large number of enemy effectives, and constituted a crushing blow at the U.S. aggressors. These have landed in an embarrassing situation hitherto unknown in their war of aggression against Viet Nam.

"At present on the Viet Nam battlefield the South Vietnamese people and armed forces are firmly holding the initiative. Not only can they mount widespread attacks but their offensives are uninterrupted. Within a short space of time, they can launch vigorous assaults one after another on the enemy. On the Viet Nam battlefield the U.S. aggressors are now driven into a passive position, they are subject to increasing onslaughts and have been gradually losing their freedom of action..."

Renmin Ribao — Feb. 29, 1968
(P.R. of China)

"... THE South Viet Nam situation now is a paradoxical one: the aggressor is attacked. He has for ever lost his initiative. He has fallen far short of his political goals. His strategy is no longer of any use. His armed forces are on the defensive.

"... Meanwhile the Saigon puppet regime has in its despair triggered a wave of arrests against those very people who until recently had been listed as its friends, including former 'candidates to presidential elections' and 'ex-Ministers."

Bohemia — March 1, 1968
(Cuba)

"THE 3rd Special Communique proves that the people's war in South Viet Nam has reached a new stage of development. The Vietnamese people have dealt heavy blows at the U.S. aggressors and are now plunging them into an unprecedented critical situation."

Zeri I Popullit — Feb. 29, 1968
(Albania)

"ONE of the first results of the offensive is that it has accelerated the disintegration of the Saigon army, with whole battalions either dissolving with soldiers returning to their villages or going over as complete units to the N.F.L. while the Thieu-Ky administration crumbles in many urban and rural areas and is replaced with people's self-management committees.

"... The Front's forces are increasing every day, in addition to the [puppet] units which are deserting, with terms of recruits from cities or sections of cities which have been liberated.

"... New political developments such as the formation of an alliance (Front of Alliance for National Independence, Democracy and Peace — *Ed.*) with the Front in Hue, the people's committees and the revolutionary armed forces, contain great possibilities for the future."

Guardian (U.S.A.)

South Viet Nam

THE BA TO UPRISING

(MARCH 11, 1945)

ON March 11, 1945, two days after the Japanese fascists staged a putsch and overthrew the ruling French colonialists, the people of Ba To district mostly inhabited by national minorities in the western part of Quang Ngai province, rose up in arms under the leadership of the revolutionaries placed under surveillance by the French there. With the support and assistance of a number of soldiers in the puppet army, they assaulted and occupied the Ba To post, and proclaimed a revolutionary power. For the first time in the country's history, the gold-starred red flag – which was to become later the national flag of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam – flew over the Long Range amidst the tight encirclement by the enemy. The political progress of the Viet Minh League (League for the Independence of Viet Nam) was made public. Right afterwards, the Ba To guerilla team was founded to continue the armed struggle under the most difficult circumstances. With a meagre force at first, the revolutionaries set up a resistance base and successfully resisted "mopping-up" operations of the Japanese fascists. Relying on the people, they built up their forces continually to serve as the hard core for the victorious uprising of the Quang Ngai people in August 1945, thereby contributing to the success of the General Insurrection of the Vietnamese people that led to the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Inspired by the spirit of indomitable struggle for independence and freedom of the Ba To revolutionaries, the people of Ba To and the people of Quang Ngai province as a whole held out on their free land throughout the eight years of the resistance against the French colonialists, defeating all the nibbling attacks of the enemy. From 1954 onward the multi-national population of Ba To and Quang Ngai conducted a tireless struggle against the Ngo Dinh Diem regime, in the pay of the U.S. imperialists. In August 1959 the people of Tra Bong, which is also a district with many national minorities in Quang Ngai province, took to arms. Thirty living in a pilot province of the "strategic hamlets," a U.S.-Diem "nation policy," the people of Quang Ngai province, true to their glorious traditions, not only frustrated the enemy's brutal scheme of concentrating people, but also inflicted on the U.S.-Diem troops such disastrous defeats as in Ba Gia and Duc Pho. When masses of U.S. aggressive troops were brought into South Viet Nam, the Quang Ngai armed forces and people hit them hard at Van Tuong (August 19, 1965). The Van Tuong victory proved that the South Vietnamese people could defeat not only the U.S. "special war" but also its "local war."

On this land burning with an ardent revolutionary fervour, most devastating raids by the U.S., puppet and Pak Jung Hi troops have in the past years been unable to prevent the revolutionary movement from developing. In their early spring offensive and uprisings this year, the revolutionary armed forces and people of Quang Ngai have proved very equal to the Ba To tradition. They have liberated many vast rural areas, seized control of the provincial capital, many district capitals and other towns, wiped out a large number of enemy effectives and destroyed large quantities of enemy war equipment, which will contribute to the ultimate victory of the entire South Vietnamese people over the U.S. aggressors and the clique of their henchmen.

IF NEED BE, I'LL SET FIRE TO MY HUT TO GUIDE YOUR FIRE

A mortar unit of the P.L.A.F. received orders to attack the Yanks stationed in a school of B. village, in the periphery of Hue city.

The night was pitch dark. Our fighters marched in Indian file, making as little noise as possible. Suddenly two scouts who had been keeping a keen eye on the enemy's movement ran back and reported to the C.O., "They have moved to another place." At once the officer said to their men, "Halt and disperse; look out and wait for my orders."

The unit split into groups. Each of these took position, detached some men to mount guard for the others to rest.

The commanding body held an emergency meeting with the scouts to get information on the new position and worked out a new plan for action. As the pow-wow was in progress a cocking was heard, then a challenge, "Who goes there? Halt! Are you Tam?" (Tam is the password — *Ed.*)

The intruder answered, hemming and hawing, with the enemy's gun muzzle pressed against his chest "No, I... I am... an inhabitant of this locality." Immediately he was surrounded by the group on duty: it was a white-haired old man who was all in sweat.

A fighter asked him, "Where are you going?"

The old man replied, "The enemy is no longer in the school. Take me to your commander at once."

The fighters winked at one another. The old man followed the group leader to the commander and told him, "The Yanks have changed their encampment since 8 p.m. They have left behind few empty tents to take you in. Now they have pitched camp on an open ground in the middle of our hamlet. We are suspicious of a trick so we watched them closely. When we saw some troops go in the direction of the school, we were not clear whether they were friends or foes. So I've come to make sure. Now I'll show you the way. I know this locality like the palm of my hand."

The commanders cast a quick glance at the two scouts who nodded. The meeting resumed. When it was over, the unit got orders to go into action. The old man was close on the heels of the commanding group dying for some assignment.

In the spring breeze, he could hardly hear the soft voice of the commander, "A tough task indeed! They are in the middle of the hamlet, near the inhabitants' huts. We should take care not to do any harm to our people."

Without hesitation, the old man cut in, "Don't you worry. If need be, I will set fire to my hut to guide your fire."

Deeply moved, the commanding officer hugged the old man and said, "Thank you, father. We aren't yet driven to such extremity."

That night bullets rained thick on the enemy. The P.L.A.F. fire was so deadly that the inhabitants wondered whether their bullets had eyes.

P.L.A.F. Simultaneous Attacks...

(Continued from page 8)

this infantry division and its airfield at Cu Chi were shelled. In Nha Be logistic base south of Saigon, a big petrol depot was set afire. Heavy damage was caused to enemy big bases and airfields at Loc Ninh, Lai Khe, Phu Loi (Thu Dau Mot province), and to its airbase at Bien Hoa.

In Central and Western Nam Bo

THE P.L.A.F. made their appearance in the streets of Ca Mau town on March 5 they controlled the 8th, 9th, 10th and 14th districts and part of the 1st, 2nd and 11th districts. Such puppet organs as the "open arms" centre, the security service, the police station, the provincial "self-guard" H.Q. were attacked and suffered heavy losses. Six river boats were sunk. Many posts abandoned by their guards were flattened by the people. Great damage was caused to the enemy in other towns when attacks were made on 3 airfields in Can Tho province (in the town, at Tra Noc and Lo Te), to the C.P. of puppet Division No 7 and encampments of two puppet battalions at My Tho, to the residence of the provincial head, the provincial offices in Ben Tre, etc...

There is no denying the fact that the South Viet Nam armed forces and people firmly hold the initiative on the battlefield, attack the enemy relentlessly and everywhere and drive him deeper onto the defensive and into an impasse.

EVERY time the U.S. sustains a military setback, internal feud tends to grow among its Saigon puppets and contradictions increase between Washington and its placemen. The current storm of revolutionary attacks of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people is aggravating this chronic political unease in Saigon.

The Thieu-Ky junta has arrested many opposition personalities including Au Truong Thanh, ex-Minister of Economy of the puppet clique to "settle their old political accounts."

In a bid to strengthen his position, on Feb. 27 Nguyen Van Thieu mercilessly dismissed Vinh Loc, commander of the 2nd Army Corps, and Nguyen Van Manh, commander of the 4th Army Corps, and was contemplating major shifts affecting division commanders. Thieu also signed a decree depriving the four army corps commanders of their civil administrative power and placing 44 provincial governors under his direct command. He, however, met with a counter-move by the so-called House of Representatives and Senate which rejected his request for special powers to promulgate decrees on economic and financial affairs for one year.

The smouldering rift between Thieu and Ky has recently flared up again. Ky's trip to Phu Bai (10 km south of Hue) to meet "promises" to war refugees caused Thieu to worry over his influence and subsequently prompted him to fly to Hue. Yet, according to *Reuter* on Feb. 23, Ky's influence seemed to be on the increase because he had found new support among the retired generals including Tran Van Don and Pham Van Dong.

Tension was mounting between these U.S.chief puppets to the point that, as reported by *Reuter* on Feb. 23 and *UPI* on March 3, there were rumours about an eventual U.S.-manoeuvred coup d'Etat to be staged by "friends of Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky" with a shadow cabinet ready at hand which might be headed by Tran Van Don.

Western news reports disclosed that the internal feud within the command complex displeased their Washington bosses. Reflecting this displeasure the *Washington Post* on Feb. 29 described the arrests made by the Thieu–Ky junta as "stupid moves." *USIS* on Feb. 28 criticized Thieu for being "more preoccupied with petty rivalries than with solving his country's problems."

The political crisis and rottenness within the puppet regime have been aggravating in the face of the heavy defeats inflicted by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people on the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys. This clearly indicates that the use of a puppet administration for the realization of neo-colonialism is on the verge of bankruptcy

NEW POLITICAL RIVALRIES IN SAIGON

regime, Truong Dinh Du, a "presidential candidate" of last September's elections, and Ho Thong Minh, a minister of the former Ngo Dinh Diem regime. Trade union leaders including Tran Huu Quyen and Vo Van Tai, and even Reverend Thich Tri Quang, for years leader of an anti-Thieu-Ky Buddhist faction, have also been apprehended. *Reuter* reported on Feb. 28 that since Jan. 31 this year as many as 50 political figures have been seized. These have been allegedly put under "protective detention" as a measure to prevent the emergence of a "coalition government" in which they might take part. But, as acknowledged by Americans in Saigon, this is essentially an attempt of the Thieu-Ky clique to "settle their old political accounts."

In a bid to strengthen his position, on Feb. 27 Nguyen Van Thieu mercilessly dismissed Vinh Loc, commander of the 2nd Army Corps, and Nguyen Van Manh, commander of the 4th Army Corps, and was contemplating major shifts affecting division commanders. Thieu also signed a decree depriving the four army corps commanders of their civil administrative power and placing 44 provincial gov-

TRUE NATURE...

(Continued from page 3)

with the support of his superior, General Wheeler, is asking for from 50,000 to 100,000 men over and above the 10,500-strong reinforcement just sent him. President Johnson came in person, in a lightning coast-to-coast trip, to bid farewell to Viet Nam-bound reinforcement troops. As reported in Viet Nam, competent circles in the Pentagon have let it be known that "escalation" will be vigorously pushed forward in the coming two months.

While talking peace, President Johnson is obdurately making war. But his peace hoax, like that about "American victories" in Viet Nam, will lead him nowhere. At his press conference of January 16, 1968, an American journalist asked him whether American policy is Johnson-Nixonism. To this Mr Johnson gave an evasive answer. A comprehensible, but vain scruple. The true nature of Johnsonism is known to everyone: bellicosity and obstinacy.

February 25, 1968
QUANG LOI

P.L.A.F. SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS ON 100 ENEMY BASES, AIRFIELDS, DEPOTS IN 24 CITIES AND TOWNS

WHILE Westmoreland and Thieu-Ky clamoured that the P.L.A.F. had suffered "heavy setbacks" in the simultaneous attacks since the *Tet* Festival and "are not able to fight large-scale battles with nationwide co-ordination," from March 2 to 6, 1968, the P.L.A.F. launched new attacks against over 100 military bases, airfields, depots, gun-emplacements, C.P.'s and commanding organs in 24 towns and cities, from northernmost Quang Tri to southernmost Ca Mau. Following is the situation in each region:

In the Five Northern Provinces (Enemy 1st Tactical Area)

IN **Quang Tri**, the enemy is in a sorer and sorer plight. After sinking and damaging 29 enemy war boats between February 24 and 28, the P.L.A.F. tightened their noose around Khe Sanh, causing many casualties among enemy troops venturing out of their bases, and cutting off the enemy supply route: Doc Mieu, Dong Ha, Con Tien and Gio Linh were violently attacked by P.L.A.F. artillery fire and suffered heavy damage especially on the night of March 2.

In **Hue**, the enemy was soundly beaten in the suburbs of the city and the C.P. of the U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division in the North of the city was stormed.

In **Quang Nam**, 25 military and administrative bases were assaulted including Da Nang airbase, Nuoc Man heliport, the U.S. Marines' main logistic base, the C.P. of puppet Regiment No.5, the U.S.O.M. office, many gun emplacements and armoured car parks and 5 military sub-sectors.

In **Quang Ngai**, the P.L.A.F. hammered at the puppet provincial administrative office, the C.P. of pupet Division No.2, the C.P. of puppet Regiment No.4 in the town and caused them heavy losses.

In the Remaining Provinces of Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam)

ENEMY positions in the townships of **Kontum**, **Darlac**, **Pleiku**, the townlet of **Tan Canh** (Western High Plateaux) were the targets of P.L.A.F. attacks. The base of U.S. Infantry Division No.4 at **Dakto**, the Tan Canh airfield, the Hollow-way airstrip at Pleiku were heavily pounded. The P.L.A.F. occupied the 7th sub-district of **Tuy Hoa** town and damaged the C.P. of puppet Regiment No.47. The U.S. airfield at **Cam Ranh**, boasted by the enemy as "absolutely safe," was shelled for the first time by the P.L.A.F. and its runway slashed in many sections.

In Saigon and the Surrounding Provinces

ON March 2 and 3, the P.L.A.F. mounted four major attacks on the suburbs of Saigon: Battalion No.4 of Brigade No.1, U.S. Infantry Division No.25, was wiped out 13km northwest of Saigon. The C.P. of

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Snipers, Terror of U.S. Troops

IN January 1968, 369 U.S. troops were put out of action by sniper fire at Khe Sanh. Sniping has been raised by the P.L.A.F. to the level of an art.

Ha Van Nhieu is one of those honoured with the name "Terror of the U.S. Aggressors." He has knocked down 84 U.S. troops with sniper fire. A G.I. was sticking his eyes to the range-finder of his mortar, ready to send off a shell. A shot from Nhieu's rifle cut him down, his arms clutching at the gun base and his head resting on the barrel. Another G.I., a radio man, stood with his back turned to Nhieu. Nhieu waited the man to face him so that the shot might be a sure "kill." As the man did not face around Nhieu lost patience. A shot rang out, went through the radio set into the man's back. The American soldier sank slowly and fell flat on the ground with the radio on his back. A third G.I. crept out probably to pull his unfortunate fellow into cover. Nhieu again pressed the trigger. The shot hitched the man up for a second then he dropped motionless into his prostrate position.

One day, on Hill 882 south of Khe Sanh, Nhieu broke his own record by hitting 28 U.S. aggressors. Two Americans were toting a case of equipment to a helicopter landing ground. Nhieu took aim and pressed the trigger. The man in the van dropped on the case and fell on his back. A helicopter took off. Three G.I.'s snatched at the rope ladder and tried to climb in. Nhieu raised his rifle but was somewhat perplexed. Which of them to pick up first? He made a quick decision and aimed at the one on the highest rung of the ladder. He tumbled down, pulling along with him the second and both in their fall made the third tumble from the ladder, too. A fourth rashly reached up for the ladder just as the helicopter was pulling up in a haste. A fourth shot from Nhieu sent him tumbling down from several dozens metres.

Not Nhieu alone has struck terror into the hearts of American soldiers in the area. Vu Trong Hang in the nearby Con Tien area was also renowned as a first-rate sniper. 87 American aggressors have fallen to his rifle. He owes his particular reputation to his quick firing and pinpoint accuracy. On more than 20 occasions he knocked down two U.S. troops within only two seconds. In terms of resourcefulness Nhieu is matched by Le Van Dien. Once Dien spotted two G.I.'s slipping down into a bunker. He made the second bite the dust. As he fell the American blocked the way of the first. While the latter was clumsily groping for the way into cover Dien sent off another bullet which gave the man a jerk before flattening him to the ground.

In the early days of the Lunar New Year (February) the American Marines at Con Tien were scared out of their wits by P.L.A.F. sniper fire. They were often seen creeping out into the top of their bunkers and raking the surroundings with their machinegun fire. Dau and Son received orders to make examples of them. As a G.I. with his binoculars was giving guidance to his mates, Dau picked him up on his gunsight and a dry shot sent the American up with a hitch. Another G.I. crept out to the wirefence apparently to repair some broken wire. As he was bending over his job, a bullet from Son laid him down across the fence.

G.I.s killed by snipers

At Khe Sanh, Con Tien and other U.S. positions north of Highway 9, the P.L.A.F. fighters have put up the slogan "Hit the G.I.'s in the eyes." Many U.S. troops were knocked down when peering out of the loopholes of their bunkers or standing at the command tower. One G.I. was sent reeling to the ground as soon as he opened the hatch of his tank to venture a look out.

The efficiency of P.L.A.F. sniper fire against the G.I.'s in Khe Sanh, Con Tien and elsewhere is illustrated by this *AP* Feb. 22 dispatch: "Snipers are now lying so close to the American positions that they can fire at Marines laying mines or setting up wire entanglements around Khe Sanh."